



## **PROGRESS REPORT NO. 104**

**TO:** Dr. Laura Buelow – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email  
Matt Wilkening – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email

**FROM:** Kris McCaig – Teck American Incorporated (TAI)

**DATE:** March 4, 2015

**FILE NO:** 01-773180-000

**RE:** Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study  
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 104 Month Ending February 2015

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Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

Phase 2 Sediment Study - Field sampling activities were completed on October 24, 2013. Validated field sediment and porewater chemistry data have been reviewed and approved by EPA.

Short-term bioassay tests (i.e., 10-day *Chironomus dilutes* and 28-day *Hyalella azteca*) were completed for all batches on April 24, 2014. Bioassay test data and analytical chemistry data for porewater and sediment samples collected during the short term bioassay tests have been loaded into the project database; chemistry data have been reviewed by EPA and TAI is in receipt of several letters from EPA's detailing the review. At the time of writing, TAI responded to EPA's review comments on March 3, 2015.

Long-term bioassay tests (i.e., *Chironomus dilutes* and 42-day *Hyalella azteca*) were initiated on February 12, 2015 and will continue into April.

As detailed in the EPA-approved technical memorandum describing how the backscatter electron microscopy (BSEM) will be performed on archived Phase 2 Study, samples were shipped from ALS to RJ Lee Group in December 2014 and the lab began analyses in January 2015. On February 24, 2015 TAI submitted to EPA, RJ Lee Group's Example Report for UCR Phase 2 Sediments BSEM analysis. This report was provided as an example to illustrate how the BSEM data will be presented, and is not an initial data delivery. BSEM analysis on all samples is scheduled for completion around the end of March 2015.

Bossburg Flat Beach Refined Sediment and Soil Study - TAI received EPA's January 20, 2014 letter with approval of the QAPP and finalized the document for signature. TAI submitted an application to the National Park Service on February 2, 2015 for a special use permit to conduct the sampling and received the permit from NPS on February 23, 2015. TAI executed the permit and provided copies to EPA on February 26, 2015.

Soil Study – Field sampling activities commenced on September 8, 2014 and were completed on October 23, 2014. Chemistry analysis of the incremental composite soil samples is complete, validated data was submitted to EPA and EPA completed their quality assurance review.

Benthic Macroinvertebrate Tissue Study – TAI is in receipt of EPA's August 19, 2013 Expected Level of Effort For Sampling Benthic Macroinvertebrate Tissue, Upper Columbia River paper and submitted the Draft Quality Assurance Project Plan for the Macroinvertebrate Tissue Study to EPA on November 18, 2014 for review and comment.

Human Health - TAI received from EPA, the draft data analysis report (DAR) for the Recreational Use Survey on January 17, 2014 and submitted comments to EPA on June 11, 2014.

TAI provided comments on the June 20, 2014 draft final Tribal Survey DAR in a letter to EPA dated July 17, 2014; EPA responded via email on November 21, 2014 with response to items 1 and 2 of TAI's comments and indicated "Regarding items 3 through 6 in your letter, EPA will make changes to the report, as appropriate."

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-623-4501.